

# The Punta Gorda Herald

PUNTA GORDA — In Tropical Southwest Florida, a Seaport on the Famous Charlotte Harbor — a Town that is Known for its Natural Attractions and the Hospitality of a Cosmopolitan Citizenship

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## A FACT NOT GENERALLY KNOWN

SHOWN BY CENSUS FIGURES

W. A. McRae, State Commissioner of Agriculture, in a Newspaper Interview Explains Matter Affecting Our Towns

Florida has no abler or more persistent booster than William A. McRae, commissioner of agriculture. During the past few years, he has contributed to the press many articles of great value bearing on the advancement and development of the state. His latest expressions along this line were given last Thursday to the Tallahassee correspondent of the Tampa Tribune. They contain views that are both truthful and highly important, and they should, therefore, be carefully read and digested by every citizen, male and female. They are as follows:

Referring to census matters, Mr. McRae called the correspondent's attention to a fact not generally known. He said: "During the census period between 1900 and 1910 nearly 6,000 towns in the United States fell off in population, a large drift of people to the big cities. Some of the towns dropping behind were in Florida, where one town lost 1,610. That sort of thing means depression in real estate values, not only in the losing town but in the surrounding country, with general loss in all kinds of values. It means the same, if not higher, taxes in the town to maintain itself with decreased business and smaller population. It means lower prices for the products of the farm. It means poorer schools and church privileges, and poor roads. A town losing in population is usually avoided by people looking for locations.

"There is a reason for all this, and one most potent factor is the harm wrought by mail order trading. The mail order business has spread its wings as a thing of evil over every community, sapping the commercial and economic life of home affairs in all parts of the land. The postmaster at Tallahassee will tell you that catalogs, often beautiful in pictures, with tempting figures for second rate goods, come to this office literally by thousands of pounds in the course of a year. These alluring catalogs do not come directly from Chicago and New York, but from Jacksonville—from merely a shipping clerk—to get the benefit of the lower rates of the first and second zones of the parcel post, but the goods come from the big stores in the centers at the expense of the buyer. Mail order trading builds five-acre stores and ware houses, and the president of one of them some time ago paid a million dollars in cash for a home, and this was advertised at the time as the largest amount ever paid in a single check for that purpose.

"The citizens of Tallahassee and of Florida helped him buy his palace. They helped this same man to give \$50,000 to the Republican campaign. They don't know him. He pays no taxes here. He gives no credit. His name is never found on a subscription paper to raise funds for an unfortunate customer, as is the common case with the local town merchant. I could give you scores of reasons why the country is suffering from this evil, one that is putting dry rot into thousands of towns. To trade at home is not merely a matter of loyalty and sentiment, but one of self-interest. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. One dollar in Florida is better than two in Chicago or New York. It is local co-operation that builds a community. Without it there is isolation and selfishness and poverty. It was Carlyle, who long ago said: 'Men cannot live isolated.' We are all bound together for mutual good or mutual misery, as living nerves in the same body. No highest can disunite himself from the lowest."

## By-Products of Citrus Fruits

Washington, D. C.—The following extract regarding some of the work done in the interest of the citrus fruit producers is taken from the annual report of the bureau of chemistry, U. S. department of agriculture:

The development of a method for the manufacture of citrate of lime from lemons has been completed, while the development of a method for the manufacture of citric acid free from contamination by heavy metals is well advanced. The manufacture of lemon oil has been further studied and the determination of the seasonal variations of the oil and citric acid content of lemons has been practically completed for certain sections of California. A study of tangerines has shown that the green fruit has value as a source of citric acid and that the oil has commercial possibilities. The manufacture of marmalade stock has been undertaken.

A fine orange vinegar has been manufactured on a small commercial scale which promises to find a market, though a limited one, because it costs more to produce than the usual product. The determination of the composition of California oranges with reference to season, climate, soil, location, and methods of cultivation has been completed and the results are being prepared for publication. The study of the composition of oranges from selected trees has been of great assistance to the bureau of plant industry in studying bud variations for the purpose of making selections in propagation experiments. Similar studies upon grapefruit have been begun with the bureau of plant industry for the purpose of standardizing and improving the varieties grown. A study to establish the range of variation in composition of mature Florida and California grapefruit has been undertaken to be carried through several seasons.

## Useless Christmas Giving

Editor Jordan strikes a chord of wisdom and good common sense in the following:

Christmas has become a nightmare to most bread-winners who have to pay the cost. Why not quit giving presents to any persons over fourteen years old and let people over that age merely exchange Christmas cards?

There is no good reason why adults should buy and exchange expensive presents at Christmas time. The season was never intended for that purpose. It stands for an exchange of good will and good cheer but not of costly gewgaws. The children, of course, must have their gifts, but they need not be expensive. The ordinary child derives more pleasure from a dollar toy than from a ten dollar ornament.

Christmas giving has been greatly abused. Persons give expensive presents when they are not financial able to pay for them and when they urgently need the money for some other purpose. Many of them take the money which ought to go to paying their bills and purchase costly gifts for relatives and friends. It is a false proposition in economy. It entails succeeding weeks of deprivation, of being "hard up" for money for the necessary expenses of life.

Some day the public will wake up to the folly of this expensive Christmas giving and then Editor Jordan's suggestion will be adopted. Everybody will be happier and better off.—Tampa Tribune

Of the twenty-nine governors that Florida has had to date, twenty-one of them were born elsewhere and six were born in Florida. Four were born in South Carolina, three in Tennessee, two in Kentucky, two in North Carolina, two in Pennsylvania, two in Alabama, and one each in Virginia, Georgia, New York, Wisconsin, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Illinois.—St. Lucie Tribune.

After all this country may be too big to buy up.

## Thanksgiving Proclamation

Looking backward through the years to the time when our forefathers were establishing in this country institutions that characterize a great and enduring civilization, there comes to our view no more significant hall mark of the fine Christian characteristics of the men and women of that day than the beautiful custom they began for us in observing a day of thanksgiving and praise. The people of Florida for the blessings of prosperity, peace and happiness that prevail in our commonwealth and in the nation should be profoundly grateful.

To us has been vouchsafed a year unmarred by epidemic, serious disturbances or economic loss. To us has been given a year of peaceful enjoyment of the prosperity of the commonwealth; and a year witnessing great progress in our industries and arts of peace. Our fields and groves are richly laden with the fruits of industry and are not laid waste in the devastating path of war. The busy whirl of the wheels of commerce have not been supplanted by the rumblings of the wheels of cannon, the song of the harvester is heard in the land and we have no discordant note of strife within our borders.

Therefore, in keeping with the beautiful custom which it delights our hearts to follow, I, Park Trammell, governor of the state of Florida, do hereby designate and set apart,

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1916

to be observed as a day of Thanksgiving.

That this nation of ours has been spared the suffering, loss and bloodshed, yes, even the wholesale slaughter of men, which are the necessary results of cruel and merciless war; that we have been kept out of its awful horrors, yet steadfastly have maintained the national honor, should fill us with a spirit of solemn gratitude.

For these things and for whatever our individual blessing and prosperity have been let us be truly thankful, reverently observing the day set apart in offering praises and Thanksgiving to The Giver of all Good who giveth the earth its increase and guides the destinies of nations.

Let the people gather where convenient for a service of Praise and Thanksgiving appropriate to the occasion, and manifest their gratitude also in substantial form by having thought for any unfortunate in their midst.

In testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the state to be affixed this 16th day of November, A. D. 1916.

(SEAL)

PARK TRAMMELL,

Governor.

H. CLAY CRAWFORD,

Secretary of State.

## FARM AND GROVE IN FLORIDA

Agricultural News Service University of Florida College of Agriculture

### Farmers Will Receive Money At Five Per Cent

According to a lecture by Senator Duncan U. Fletcher at the University of Florida recently, the farmers of this country probably will receive money at five per cent under the Federal Farm Loan Act. He said that just before he left Washington the Farm Loan Board had received assurance that millions of capital would be available at 4 per cent. This money will be invested in bonds issued by Farm Loan Banks under provisions of Banks. Under the provisions of the Act the farmers cannot be charged more than 1 per cent above the interest paid on the bonds.

The bonds are highly desirable as investments, owing to their safety and the tax exemptions which they will enjoy. Investors will withdraw their money from less secure bonds and place it in the farm loan bonds. Four per cent is an attractive rate for large capital when the solidity of the bonds is considered, since these will be as safe as those of the Government itself.

### Men Trained in Horticulture Scarce

Men who are properly trained in handling fruits and vegetables are scarce. They are wanted not only by public institutions but by private enterprise. Wells A. Sherman, of the Office of Markets and Rural Organizations, said recently in a lecture at the University of Florida that men with such training are hard to find. His office is especially desirous of finding men who are capable of doing work in fruit and vegetable marketing and organizations; but, owing to the fact that private enterprises can offer more money, very few of the agricultural college graduates who are properly trained can be obtained for public service.

It is probable that the fresh fruit and vegetable business will continue to grow, because the markets are demanding more of

that kind of produce. Students who begin preparations for that business will find ready employment as soon as they have finished college and have obtained the qualifying experience.

### Spray for San Jose Scale in December

Spraying for San Jose Scale should be done when the trees are dormant. Since peach trees reach this stage in December, that is the best month for fighting this pest. J. R. Watson, entomologist to the University of Florida Experiment Station, recommends spraying with lime sulfur, 1 part of the commercial solution to 9 parts of water.

Spraying must be done after the old leaves have fallen and before the new buds begin to swell to avoid injury to foliage. While December is the time recommended, late varieties might be sprayed safely in January, but the early varieties probably will be resuming growth by that time.

Scale fungus can be introduced in June next year to take care of the summer brood.

Seventy-five thousand of the 250,000 students in the institutions of higher learning of the United States are studying agriculture, according to President A. A. Murphy of the University of Florida. This means that 75,000 persons have been foregone. There is room for still others because more than 100,000 agricultural jobs are waiting for this army of students.

Well, we do not worry if the Democrats do not control the next House of Representatives. On every measure that President Wilson recommended, there were from 40 to 70 progressively inclined Republicans supporting it and they will do so again, and we have the Senate by at least 12 votes. Republicans in the Senate are stiff-necked, but in the House they are afraid to oppose progressive measures.

## Ocala Philosophy

The Ocala Star last week indulged in some sound philosophical musings that should have the earnest thought of every citizen of Florida. Their importance is such as to demand attention from the legislature. Some of them are as follows:

"Speaking of the hunting season, it would be a mighty good thing for Florida if the legislature would reduce the number of birds killed to half a dozen a day for each gunner; or, better still, put a full stop to shooting all birds except birds of prey for at least five years. The boll weevil and other insect pests that are ruining cotton and other crops are here in direct consequence of the slaughter of the birds.

There are getting to be too many people for the birds. In the old days, when population was scanty, and a double-barreled muzzle-loader was the most formidable fowling piece, the feathered tribe had a chance. Now-a-days, not only the country people, who are generally moderate, kill quail, but everybody in town who can shoot, and many who can't, goes out and takes a crack or rather a series of cracks, at the birds. And with a breechloader or automatic in the hands of even an ordinary marksman, the game hasn't much of a chance.

We human beings are very inconsistent. We abuse a warlike nation which strives to shut the gates of mercy on mankind, and wade through slaughter to a place in the sun, but we slaughter birds, beasts and fish not only for our necessity, but for our amusement. And the only right we have to do this is the right of might.

## Fairs and Conventions

December 5-9—Duval county fair at Jacksonville.

December 7-8—Florida Real-estate Association, at Jacksonville.

December date to be set later—Central Florida Highway Association at Orlando.

December 14-16—Clay county fair at Green Cove Springs.

January 9-12—Florida Baptist Convention, at Orlando.

January 16-20—Florida State Livestock Association, at Gainesville.

January 22-23—Florida Drainage Association at West Palm Beach.

January 23-27—Jacksonville Poultry and Pet Stock show, in Jacksonville.

Jacksonville 25-27—Pinellas County fair at Largo.

January 29 to February 3—Seminole county fair at Sanford.

February 2 to 10—South Florida Fair at Tampa.

February 20 to March 29—Annual Smithfield Bible conference at Crescent City.

February 20-23—Five-County Subtropical Midwinter Fair, at Orlando.

February 20-23—Manatee county fair at Bradentown.

February 25 to March 7—Seventh annual meeting of Florida Gospel Navy Bible Convention, at Stuart.—Fla. Times-Union.

## Thanksgiving Prayer

Oh Lord, the day of our nation's rest, when all people should assemble to be blest, the bells in the high church towers will ring, to summon the people there to sing God's praises to the Holy King.

With joyful hearts and bended knee, we lay upon the altar our praise to thee, for us peace and plenty Thou hast decided, with the needy and unfortunate we have divided, the gracious gifts Thou hast provided.

All hail the day when our King shall rule our motives in everything, we need thy wisdom from on high to waft us onward toward the sky. This glorious day Woodrow Wilson has appointed for our whole nation to be anointed with a spirit that can't be disunited until the judgment day appointed.—L. C. Baird, Bairdville.

Anyway the election better on both sides got a run for their money.

## TEUTONS CLOSE TO BUCHAREST

WITHIN FORTY-SEVEN MILES

Have Taken Alexandria — No Important Engagements on Macedonian Front—Allies Prepare for New Offensive

London, Eng.—The entire line of the Alt River in Roumania running south through the country from the Transylvania Alps to the Danube now is in the hands of the Teutonic Allies. In all directions the invaders are continuing to make progress, with Bucharest their main objective, daily coming nearer.

The southern and eastern drive in the Alt region has brought the Teutonic forces across the Topolog River, while to the south between Richi De Vede and Valeni their line has been drawn considerably nearer the Roumanian capital. Alexandria, forty-seven miles southeast of Bucharest, has been taken by Field Marshal von Mackensen's troops.

Considering the swiftness of the advance of the Teutonic Allies through Wallachia, comparatively few prisoners have been taken, although semi-official reports credit them with having captured considerable supplies of needed stores.

Near Orsova, twenty-eight officers and 1,200 men were made prisoner while in the Alt region, near Tigveni, ten additional officers and 400 men fell into the hands of the Teutons.

The battle extending over a front of about seventeen miles northwest and northeast of Monastir—between Tirnovo and Makovo—the Entente Allies, according to Berlin, have met with a severe defeat through the failure of an attack launched against the lines of the allies of the Central Powers. Aside from reports of the repulse of the Bulgarians by the Serbians and of continued progress for the Italians west of Monastir the Entente Allied war offices record no important engagements on the Macedonian front.

In the Carnia sector of the Austro-Italian theatre and east of Gorizia the Austrians are vigorously shelling the Italians.

On the Russian front there has been considerable activity by both the Russians and Germans at various points. Comparative calm prevails all along the front in France so far as infantry engagements are concerned. A Berlin semi-official dispatch says there are indications that the Entente Allies contemplate fresh offensives, probably near Armentieres and east of Arras, where heavy artillery bombardments are being carried out, and also on the St. Mihiel salient southeast of Verdun.

Another semi-official dispatch from Berlin quotes Constantinople advices to the effect that Arabs on the Tripoli-Tunis frontier in North Africa have defeated the Italians and carried the fight across the border into the Tunis against the French. The losses of the Italians are estimated at 20,000 men, not including prisoners taken into the interior by the Arabs.

Great Britain has definitely declined to grant a safe conduct to the United States of the newly appointed Austro-Hungarian ambassador.

Brother Jordan of the Punta Gorda Herald, says that in the future he will not give his columns to any of his favorites in the political arena, or words to that effect; that it does no good, even if the majority of the newspapers are supporting a man. Correct, brother; we are of the opinion that the people do not intend to be told how they shall vote—at least, that is the way they feel about it. We think that the newspapers carry it a little too far to suit them. Just a little, and that's enough, would help the newspapers of Florida to work the people better in that line.—Crawfordville Breeze.